

provided covering fire for the ones still on the beach.

As soon as the Rangers pulled themselves over the cliff, snipers immediately fired. Fortunately, the heaving bombing the Americans had done to the island in the days beforehand had created large craters in earth. This allowed the Rangers to hide themselves from the enemy fire.

Within half an hour, the remaining task forces had made it up the tall cliffs. Rudder, bleeding from two gunshot wounds, never let his focus waver or his determination grow weary. He discovered quickly that the Germans had left wooden decoys in the gun casements. Exhausted, wounded and bewildered, Rudder kept pushing the Rangers inland. They had to find the big guns. Around 8:00 a.m. small patrols were sent south to locate the missing guns. By 9:00 a.m., their second goal completed. Now, they had to take them out.

The Rangers had located the missing guns 600 yards south of the Pointe. The Nazis had hidden the guns back from the beach to protect them from Allied air strikes and naval bombardment.

Rudders' Rangers took out the emplacements using thermite grenades and eliminated the enemy protecting them.

The mission though completed in spite of the horrific obstacles was not without cost. Rudder's Rangers had over 50 percent casualties. Some Rangers gave their lives that summer morning conquering the cliffs.

As American blood was shed on the French beaches and cliffs, General Rudder had secured the beachhead for later Allied Forces coming ashore. This paved the way to eventual victory.

In the months leading up to the Normandy Invasion, Rudder's elite group of Army Rangers underwent rigorous training in preparation for the part that they would play for the invasion named Overlord at Normandy.

Colonel Rudder put his 2nd Ranger Battalion through hell in order to prepare them for their mission at Pointe du Hoc. He made them march in full gear for over 20 miles. He had them train in hand to hand combat, climb rope ladders without safety harnesses and endure difficult amphibious training.

The success that the Rangers had on D-Day was a direct result of Rudder's intense personal involvement with their training. The amount of effort and dedication he put forth into the training is why the troops were able to manage the chaos and complete their mission. Rudder made sure that every man was prepared to do the impossible.

James Earl Rudder was born in the small Texas town of Eden, about 45 miles southeast of San Angelo, in 1910. After graduating from high school, he played football for two years at Tarleton State. He then transferred to Texas A&M in 1930. He graduated in 1932 with a degree in education. After graduation he joined the U.S. Army Reserves as a second lieutenant.

In 1937, he married Margaret Williamson (who graduated from the University of Texas), and together they had five children. In 1941, he was doing what he loved, coaching football, when duty called.

These brave men who cracked the Nazi grip on Europe began with the liberation of France 70 years ago. From there, the Rangers went on to fight in the Battle of the Bulge and U.S.

forces on to Germany. Nothing like it had ever been done before in history. Over 150,000 Allied soldiers hit the beaches during the assault landings on the 6th of June. By the 4th of July, over 1 million joined in the invasion force through Normandy. It was a miraculous feat for 1944.

Colonel Rudder received many military honors including the second highest award, the Distinguished Service Cross. He was a full Colonel by the end of the war and was promoted to Brigadier General of the U.S. Army Reserves in 1954 and Major General in 1957.

After the war, Rudder returned to Texas. He remained a highly successful and distinguished Texan until his death.

He served as Mayor of Brady for 6 years, visited the White House frequently—advising Lyndon Baines Johnson on many military issues and was hired to clean up the corruption going on in the General Land Office.

Col. Rudder became president of Texas A&M University in 1959 and president of the entire A&M system in 1965, holding both positions until his death in 1970.

The boys of D-Day came; they liberated; and some went home. Over 9,000 other GIs are buried at the top of the cliffs of Normandy, France. As we reflect on those Rangers on D-Day, 70 years ago, and the Texan who led them into battle, Lt. Col. James Earl Rudder, we once again marvel at the lives of those we call the Greatest Generation of Americans.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING KISHAN PATEL AND AJ KOLONDRAS FOR WINNING FIRST PLACE WITH THEIR WEBSITE AT THE 2014 NATIONAL HISTORY DAY COMPETITION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 30, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kishan Patel and AJ Kolondra for winning first place with their website entitled "Freedom Beach: A History of the Fort Lauderdale Beach Wade-Ins" in the 2014 National History Day Competition.

Kishan and AJ have exemplified a strong commitment to the important history of South Florida. This was clearly displayed through the remarkable website they created.

I lived through the years of segregation and experienced the wade-ins first hand. It is great to see how far we have come through the work that Kishan and AJ have put on display.

I had the pleasure of being interviewed by Kishan and AJ for their project, and am delighted to hear of their success in the competition. They were both able to come to Washington, D.C. as finalists, where they toured the White House and U.S. Capitol.

Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased to recognize Kishan and AJ for what they have accomplished. Their hard work and dedication has paid off.

I wish them both much success in their future endeavors.

H.R. 1098, H.R. 1281, H.R. 4080, H.R. 3548, AND H.R. 4631

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 30, 2014

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my support for five public health bills before the House today.

H.R. 1098, the Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act of 2014, extends surveillance and research activities for traumatic brain injuries (or TBI), as well as other programs for TBI services and supports overseen by the Department of Health and Human Services. I represent the nation's largest Veterans Affairs health facility—the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center. TBI is one of many complex health problems affecting the veteran community served by this facility. I am pleased that we were able to include a provision in the bill that calls on HHS and the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs to report on their progress in coordinating TBI efforts for current and former members of the military. I also want to commend the sponsors of the legislation, Congressman PASCRELL and Congressman ROONEY, for their work on this issue.

H.R. 1281, the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act of 2014, extends newborn screening services and related activities for many conditions that are not otherwise apparent at birth and, if left untreated, can cause severe disability or even death. I want to thank the sponsors of this legislation, Congresswoman ROYBAL-ALLARD and Congressman SIMPSON, as well as the sponsors of the Senate companion bill, Senators HAGAN and HATCH. The bill before the House today is the product of bipartisan and bicameral negotiations to assure House and Senate passage of this measure. I would also like to thank Senators HARKIN and ALEXANDER for their leadership on this measure in the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee.

H.R. 4080, the Trauma Systems and Regionalization of Emergency Care Reauthorization Act, reauthorizes four grant programs that seek to improve access to trauma care services within states and in rural areas. Energy and Commerce Members, Congressmen BURGESS and GREEN, are to be commended for their sponsorship of this legislation and leadership on trauma care issues.

We are also considering another bill today related to trauma care: H.R. 3548, the Improving Trauma Care Act. This legislation expands the current definition of trauma for the purposes of trauma care grants to include burns and other injuries resulting from electrical, chemical, or other exposures. Congressman JOHNSON should be commended for his work on this issue.

Finally, H.R. 4631, the Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education, and Support Act of 2014, would extend autism spectrum disorder activities at the Department of Health and Human Services and ensure these efforts are better coordinated with activities across the federal government. The legislation before us reflects bipartisan and bicameral efforts to advance a bill that can pass both chambers well in advance of the September 30 sunset provisions that are in current law. I want to thank Congressmen SMITH and DOYLE, as well as Senators MENENDEZ and